



# Council of Graduate Schools

## RESEARCH REPORT

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### **Findings from the 2010 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission**

**August 2010**

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**Council of Graduate Schools**

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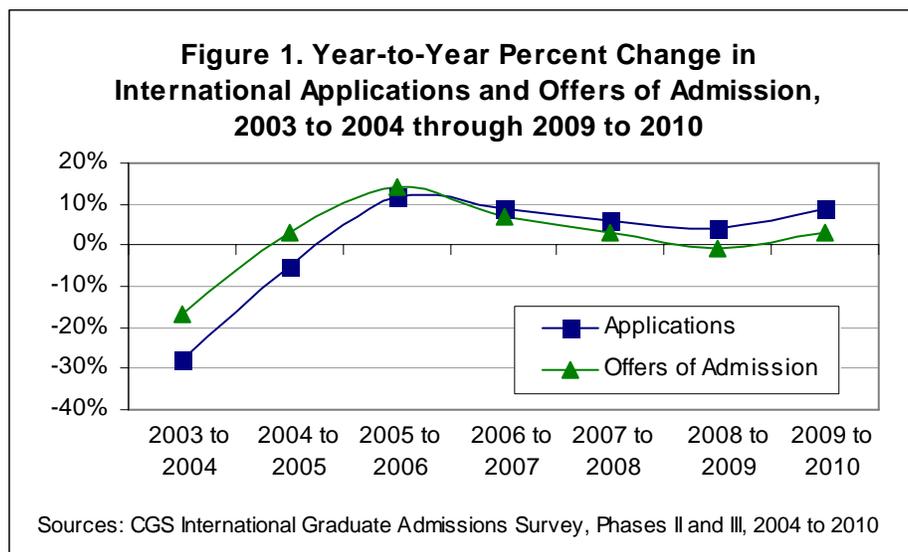
## Overview

In 2004, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) began an extensive, multi-year empirical examination of international graduate application, admission, and enrollment trends. This analysis responds to member institutions' concerns about continuing changes in the enrollment of students from abroad seeking master's and doctoral degrees from U.S. colleges and universities.

The core of this examination is a three-phase survey of CGS member institutions. The *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* collects an initial snapshot of applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students (*Phase I*, conducted in February of each year), final applications and an initial picture of admissions offers to prospective international students (*Phase II*, June), and final offers of admission and first-time and total international graduate student enrollment (*Phase III*, October).

Institutions responding to the *Phase II* survey in 2004 reported a 28% decline in applications from prospective international graduate students between 2003 and 2004 (see Figure 1). Subsequent *Phase II* surveys revealed a 5% decline from 2004 to 2005, followed by a 12% increase from 2005 to 2006. The growth rate slowed in each of the next three years, with year-to-year gains of 9%, 6%, and 4%.<sup>1</sup>

The *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* found a similar pattern in terms of final offers of admission. Institutions responding to the survey in 2004 reported an 18% decline in offers of admission to prospective international students. Subsequent *Phase III* surveys revealed a 3% increase from 2004 to 2005 and a 14% gain from 2005 to 2006. The growth rate slowed in each of the next two years, with year-to-year gains of 7% and 3%, followed by a 1% decline in 2009.



The 2010 *Phase II* survey data show that U.S. graduate schools received an increasing number of applications from prospective international students for fall 2010, with the largest increase since 2007. And, for the first time in the last seven years, total applications from international students were higher in 2010 than in 2003. The *Phase II* survey data also reveal that initial offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased for fall 2010, reversing last year's decline.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.cgsnet.org/Default.aspx?tabid=172> for reports from the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* from 2004 to present.

This report first describes the methodology used to collect the data and calculate changes in applications and offers of admission from 2009 to 2010. The second section presents the current survey results on applications to U.S. graduate schools by prospective international students and compares the one-year changes to those in prior years. Section three presents data on offers of admission to prospective international students by U.S. graduate schools and compares the one-year changes to those in prior years. The fourth section examines changes from 2009 to 2010 in graduate applications from, and offers of admission to, U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Section five provides a summary and conclusions.

## I. Survey Methodology and Response Rate

The survey population for the *2010 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission* consisted of all 494 U.S. colleges and universities that were members of CGS as of May 2010.<sup>2</sup> The survey instrument was e-mailed to the graduate dean (or equivalent) at each member institution on June 2, 2010, and responses were collected electronically through July 30, 2010.

The survey asked institutions to report their final numbers of completed applications received from prospective international graduate students for fall 2009 and fall 2010. In addition, institutions were asked to provide the number of offers of admission granted to prospective international students for fall 2009 and fall 2010, as of June 5<sup>th</sup> or the same date each year. In the survey, an international student is defined as a person who is not a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and is in this country on a student visa, or on a temporary basis, and does not have the legal right to remain indefinitely. Institutions were also asked to provide applications and admissions data for international students who originate from four key sending countries or regions and for eight broad fields of study.

In addition to the quantitative data collected on prospective international students, institutions were asked to respond to two questions about prospective U.S. citizen and permanent resident graduate students. In the first question, institutions were asked to provide the number of applications received from U.S. citizens and permanent residents for graduate certificate, education specialist, master's degree, and doctoral programs for the fall term in 2009 and the fall term in 2010. In the second question, institutions were asked to provide the number of offers of admission granted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for graduate programs for the fall term in 2009 and the fall term in 2010, as of June 5<sup>th</sup> or the same data each year.<sup>3</sup>

A total of 249 institutions responded to the survey, for a response rate of 50.4%. The response rates among certain types of institutions were even higher: nine of the ten institutions that award the largest numbers of master's and doctoral degrees to international students, 22 of the 25 largest (88%), 44 of the 50 largest (88%), and 82 of the 100 largest (82%) responded to the survey.<sup>4</sup> The high response rate among these institutions is important because collectively the 100 largest institutions confer about 60% of all graduate degrees awarded to international students in the United States.<sup>5</sup> Overall, the 249 institutions

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<sup>2</sup> CGS also has member institutions in Canada and overseas affiliate members. These institutions are not included in the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey*.

<sup>3</sup> A third question asked institutions about the effect of the economic situation in the United States on direct financial support for graduate students, graduate student professional development programs, and graduate student recruitment budgets. The results of this question will be analyzed and reported separately.

<sup>4</sup> These figures are based on graduate degrees awarded in academic year 2007-08. Data were derived from the National Science Foundation's WebCASPAR Database (<http://webcaspar.nsf.gov>) using data from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Previous reports about the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* based these statistics on enrollment data rather than degree data.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

responding to the *Phase II* survey conferred 66% of the approximately 90,000 graduate degrees awarded to international students in the United States in 2007-08, suggesting that the survey results accurately depict recent trends in international applications and offers of admission at U.S. graduate schools.<sup>6</sup>

Institutions responding to the *Phase II* survey provided data on a total of 541,338 applications to U.S. graduate schools by prospective international students for fall 2010 and on a total of 125,468 offers of admission to prospective international students for fall 2010. They also provided data on a total of 801,166 applications to U.S. graduate schools by U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2010 and on a total of 287,811 offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2010.

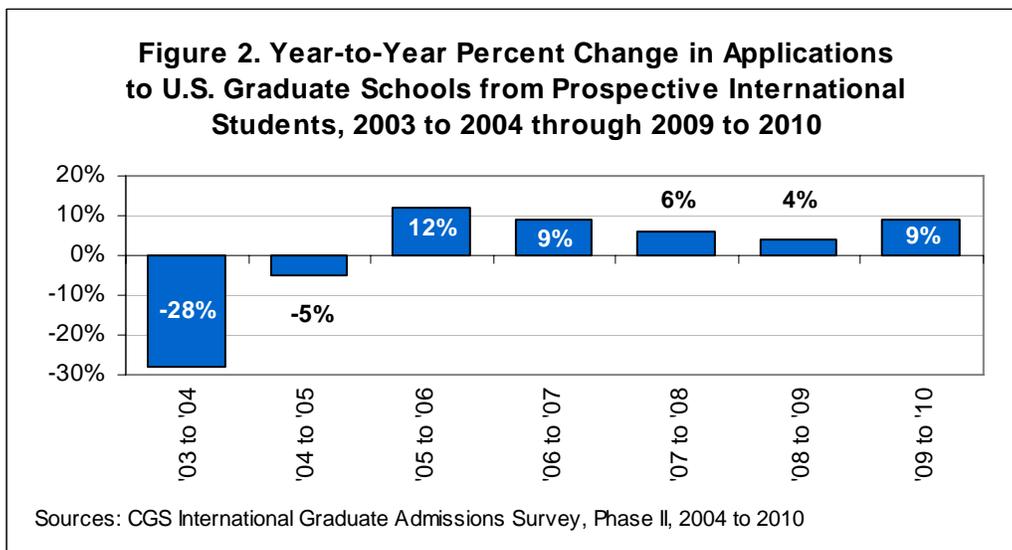
In a few cases, institutions were unable to provide data for both 2009 and 2010 for either the totals or one of the subcategories. In those instances, these respondents were excluded from the appropriate analyses. Data were not imputed for non-responding institutions.

For some campuses, the *Phase II* survey was administered before final offers of admission numbers were known, and these institutions provided preliminary figures as of the same date each year. For that reason, the survey results on offers of admission (described in section three of this report) should be considered preliminary, subject to revision in the 2010 *Phase III* survey when final offers of admission numbers are reported. Nonetheless, because of the high response rates among the institutions awarding the largest numbers of graduate degrees to international students and the large numbers of applications and offers of admission represented in the *Phase II* survey data, the overall results appear to illustrate accurately the current trends in international graduate student applications and offers of admission in the United States.

## II. Applications from Prospective International Graduate Students

### *Total Number of Applications*

This year, for the fifth year in a row, applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students increased, and the rate of increase outpaced that of the last two years. Between 2009 and 2010, international applications increased 9%, up from a 4% increase in 2009 and a 6% gain in 2008 (see Figure 2). This year's increase is the largest since 2007, when international applications also increased



<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

9%. The final 9% increase in applications from prospective international graduate students is slightly higher than the 7% increase reported for initial international applications in the *Phase I* survey results, published by CGS in April.

The majority of respondents reported an increase in international applications in 2010. Of the 243 institutions that provided total applications data for both 2009 and 2010 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 160 (66%) reported an increase in international applications for fall 2010, with an average increase of 12% at these institutions. At the 79 institutions (33%) reporting a decrease, the average decline in international applications was 8%. Four institutions (2%) reported no change in applications.

For the first time in the last seven years, total applications from international students increased above their 2003 level. International applications plummeted 28% between 2003 and 2004 and fell an additional 5% in 2005. Despite four years of gains from 2006 through 2009, the total number of international applications in 2009 remained 5% below the number received in 2003. Data from this year's *Phase II* survey reveal a 4% increase in international applications between 2003 and 2010 among the 84 institutions that provided data for both years.<sup>7</sup> Among these 84 institutions, half (42, or 50%) reported an increase in international applications between 2003 and 2010, with an average gain of 32% at these institutions. An equal number of institutions (42, or 50%) reported a decrease in international applications, with an average decline of 21% at these institutions.

#### *Applications by Country/Region of Origin*

The *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* collects data on four key sending countries or regions: India, China, South Korea, and the Middle East & Turkey. India, China, and South Korea are the top three countries of origin for international graduate students in the United States. Collectively, students from these three countries account for about one-half of all non-U.S. citizens on temporary visas attending U.S. graduate schools, according to research from both CGS and the Institute of International Education.<sup>8</sup> Thus, examining student flows from these three countries provides a good indicator of overall international applications trends. Applications from students from countries in the Middle East & Turkey<sup>9</sup> have also been included in the CGS surveys because of the geopolitical importance of this region; graduate students from the Middle East & Turkey currently account for about 6% of all international graduate students in the United States.<sup>10</sup>

The *Phase II* survey results reveal little to no growth in the numbers of applications from prospective graduate students from India and South Korea, but show continued large gains in applications from prospective graduate students from China and the Middle East & Turkey. The number of applications from India increased 1% in 2010 following a 12% decline in 2009 and a 2% gain in 2008 (see Table 1 on the following page). Applications from prospective students from South Korea remained flat in 2010 following a decline of 9% in 2009 and an increase of 2% in 2008.

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<sup>7</sup> This statistic should be interpreted cautiously since it is based on a smaller subset of institutions than the 2009 to 2010 comparisons.

<sup>8</sup> Bell, N. 2009. *Findings from the 2009 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools; Bhandari, R. & Chow, P. 2009. *Open Doors 2009: Report on International Educational Exchange*. New York, NY: Institute of International Education.

<sup>9</sup> Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

<sup>10</sup> Bell, N. 2009. *Findings from the 2009 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools; Bhandari, R. & Chow, P. 2009. *Open Doors 2009: Report on International Educational Exchange*. New York, NY: Institute of International Education.

The numbers of applications from both China and the Middle East & Turkey continued to increase dramatically in 2010. Graduate applications from prospective students from China increased 20% in 2010, up from a 14% gain in 2009; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth for China. A similar surge in applications occurred among prospective students from the Middle East & Turkey, with a 20% increase in applications in 2010 following a 22% gain in 2009; this is also the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth for the Middle East & Turkey.

**Table 1.** Change in International Graduate Applications, 2006 to 2007 through 2009 to 2010

	Final Number of Applications, 2006 to 2007	Final Number of Applications, 2007 to 2008	Final Number of Applications, 2008 to 2009	Final Number of Applications, 2009 to 2010
<b>International Total</b>	9%	6%	4%	<b>9%</b>
<b>Country/Region of Origin</b>				
China	19%	11%	14%	<b>20%</b>
India	12%	2%	-12%	<b>1%</b>
South Korea	0%	2%	-9%	<b>0%</b>
Middle East & Turkey *	17%	14%	22%	<b>20%</b>
<b>Field of Study</b>				
Arts & Humanities	8%	7%	5%	<b>9%</b>
Business	15%	10%	7%	<b>11%</b>
Education	12%	-1%	8%	<b>8%</b>
Engineering	13%	4%	3%	<b>8%</b>
Life Sciences	18%	3%	0%	<b>2%</b>
Physical & Earth Sciences	12%	7%	2%	<b>10%</b>
Social Sciences & Psychology	0%	9%	6%	<b>11%</b>
Other Fields **	--	--	11%	<b>13%</b>

\* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

\*\* Prior to 2009, data for 'Other Fields' were not collected separately.

Note: Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2007 to 2010

### *Applications by Field of Study*

International applications increased in all broad fields of study in 2010, including the fields with large numbers of international students.<sup>11</sup> The majority (62%) of all international graduate students at U.S. institutions are enrolled in one of three broad fields: engineering, physical & earth sciences (including mathematics and computer science), and business.<sup>12</sup> For fall 2010, international applications increased in all three of these broad fields (see Table 1). In business, international applications increased 11% in 2010 following a 7% gain in 2009. In physical & earth sciences, applications increased 10% in 2010 following a 2% gain in 2009, and in engineering, applications increased 8% in 2010 after a 3% gain in 2009.

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix A for the summarized survey taxonomy

<sup>12</sup> Bell, N. 2009. *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1998 to 2008*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

Life sciences and social sciences & psychology also account for large numbers of international students at U.S. institutions. In fall 2008, 20% of international students were enrolled in these broad fields.<sup>13</sup> The *Phase II* survey reveals that applications from prospective international students for fall 2010 increased 2% in life sciences. This was the smallest increase among the broad fields in 2010 and follows a 0% change in international applications last year. Applications for fall 2010 increased 11% in social sciences & psychology, nearly twice the 6% increase that occurred in 2009.

Just 18% of all international graduate students at U.S. institutions are enrolled in the three remaining broad fields (arts & humanities, education, and 'other' fields).<sup>14</sup> Applications to all three of these broad fields increased in 2010, with the strongest gain in 'other' fields (13%). International applications increased 9% in arts & humanities in 2010 following a 5% gain in 2009, and increased 8% in education in 2010 following an identical 8% gain in 2009.

#### *Applications by Geographic Region*

Applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students increased in all four major regions of the United States. Of the 243 institutions that provided total applications data for both 2009 and 2010 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 48 institutions are located in the Northeast, 63 institutions are located in the Midwest, 94 in the South, and 38 in the West.<sup>15</sup> International applications increased most in the Northeast (up 12%), followed by the Midwest (up 10%), the South (up 6%), and the West (also up 6%).

#### *Applications by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification*

Applications from prospective international students increased at public institutions and at private, not-for-profit institutions in 2010. Of the 243 institutions that provided total applications data for both 2009 and 2010 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 175 were public institutions, 67 were private, not-for-profit institutions, and one was a private, for-profit institution. At public institutions, international applications increased 7% in 2010, and at private, not-for-profit institutions, international applications increased 12% (see Table 2 on the following page). Data for the one private, for-profit respondent are included in the total but are not broken out separately.

The 243 institutions responding to the *Phase II* survey with 2009 and 2010 data were coded according to their 2005 Carnegie basic classification. In the analysis, the 167 responding institutions classified as RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity), RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity), or DRU: Doctoral/Research Universities were grouped as doctoral institutions. The 58 responding institutions classified as Master's/L: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs), Master's/M: Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs), or Master's/S: Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs) were grouped as master's-focused institutions.<sup>16</sup> Only 18 responding institutions had classifications not listed above and were therefore excluded from this particular analysis.

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> States were divided into regions as follows: *Midwest* – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; *Northeast* – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *West* – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming; and *South* – Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

<sup>16</sup> Institutions classified as doctoral institutions award 20 or more doctorates per year. Institutions classified as master's institutions award at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctorates per year. It is important to note that doctoral institutions also award master's degrees and that some master's-focused institutions award doctoral degrees.

**Table 2.** Change in International Graduate Applications by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification, 2008 to 2009 and 2009 to 2010

	2008 to 2009		2009 to 2010	
	No. of Respondents	Final Change in Applications	No. of Respondents	Final Change in Applications
<b>Total (All Institutions) *</b>	247	4%	<b>243</b>	<b>9%</b>
Public	177	4%	<b>175</b>	<b>7%</b>
Private, not-for-profit	69	3%	<b>67</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Doctoral Institutions *</b>	163	4%	<b>167</b>	<b>9%</b>
Public	118	5%	<b>118</b>	<b>7%</b>
Private, not-for-profit	44	3%	<b>48</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Master's-Focused Institutions</b>	69	-1%	<b>58</b>	<b>2%</b>
Public	51	0%	<b>47</b>	<b>2%</b>
Private, not-for-profit	18	-6%	<b>11</b>	<b>4%</b>

\* For both 2008 to 2009 and 2009 to 2010, one private, for-profit institution is included in the total but is not broken out separately by institutional control.

Notes: All results are based on the institutions providing total applications data for both years being compared (2008 and 2009 and/or 2009 and 2010). Carnegie classifications are based on the 2005 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. See text for description of Carnegie groupings. Institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions are included in the total for all institutions but are not broken out separately.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2009 and 2010

Overall, graduate applications from international students for fall 2010 increased 9% at doctoral institutions and rose 2% at master's-focused institutions (see Table 2). At both doctoral institutions and master's-focused institutions, international applications increased more at private, not-for-profit institutions than at public institutions. At doctoral institutions, international applications increased 13% at private, not-for-profit institutions, compared with 7% at public institutions. At master's-focused institutions, international applications rose 4% at private, not-for-profit institutions, compared with a 2% gain at public institutions.<sup>17</sup>

#### *Applications by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students*

The overall changes in the numbers of applications from prospective international students potentially mask substantial differences between institutions with small and large numbers of international students. To show the variation in trends, CGS reports changes in international applications by the number of master's and doctoral degrees awarded to international students. Table 3 on the following page displays the changes in international graduate applications from 2009 to 2010 for the responding colleges and universities awarding the 10 largest, 25 largest, 50 largest, and 100 largest numbers of master's and doctoral degrees to international students. In addition, data are presented for all responding institutions outside the largest 100. The rankings are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The data for master's-focused institutions should be interpreted cautiously given the smaller number of these institutions—particularly private, not-for-profit master's institutions—responding to the survey.

<sup>18</sup> See footnote 4 for more information.

**Table 3.** Change in International Graduate Applications by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students, 2009 to 2010

	<b>10 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>25 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>50 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>100 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>All Other Institutions</b>
<b>International Total</b>	13%	11%	10%	9%	8%
<b>Country/Region of Origin</b>					
China	27%	24%	23%	20%	18%
India	12%	7%	5%	3%	-8%
South Korea	-1%	-2%	-2%	-1%	10%
Middle East & Turkey *	1%	10%	11%	15%	38%
<b>Field of Study</b>					
Arts & Humanities	11%	9%	8%	8%	9%
Business	10%	15%	12%	9%	20%
Education	8%	10%	9%	6%	13%
Engineering	17%	13%	11%	9%	4%
Life Sciences	9%	4%	4%	2%	1%
Physical & Earth Sciences	11%	11%	14%	11%	5%
Social Sciences & Psychology	11%	11%	10%	10%	14%
Other Fields	22%	13%	12%	13%	11%

\* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Notes: The rankings are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education. See footnote 4 for more information. Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Source: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2010

Overall, increases in international graduate applications in 2010 were strongest at institutions awarding large numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International graduate applications increased 13% at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students, 11% at the 25 largest, 10% at the 50 largest, and 9% at the 100 largest. International graduate applications increased 8% between 2009 and 2010 at the institutions outside the largest 100.

This pattern of larger increases in applications at institutions awarding large numbers of graduate degrees to international students held true for applications from prospective students from China and India. Applications from prospective graduate students from China surged 27% at the institutions that are among the 10 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students. Growth among prospective Chinese graduate students was also strong at institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students, but the average increases were slightly smaller—20% at the 100 largest institutions and 18% at the institutions outside the largest 100. Applications from prospective graduate students from India rose 12% at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest, but fell 8% at the institutions outside the largest 100. Given the large numbers of Chinese and Indian applicants to U.S. graduate schools, the trend seen among these students is likely the main reason why the largest increases overall were also at institutions awarding large numbers of graduate degrees to international students.

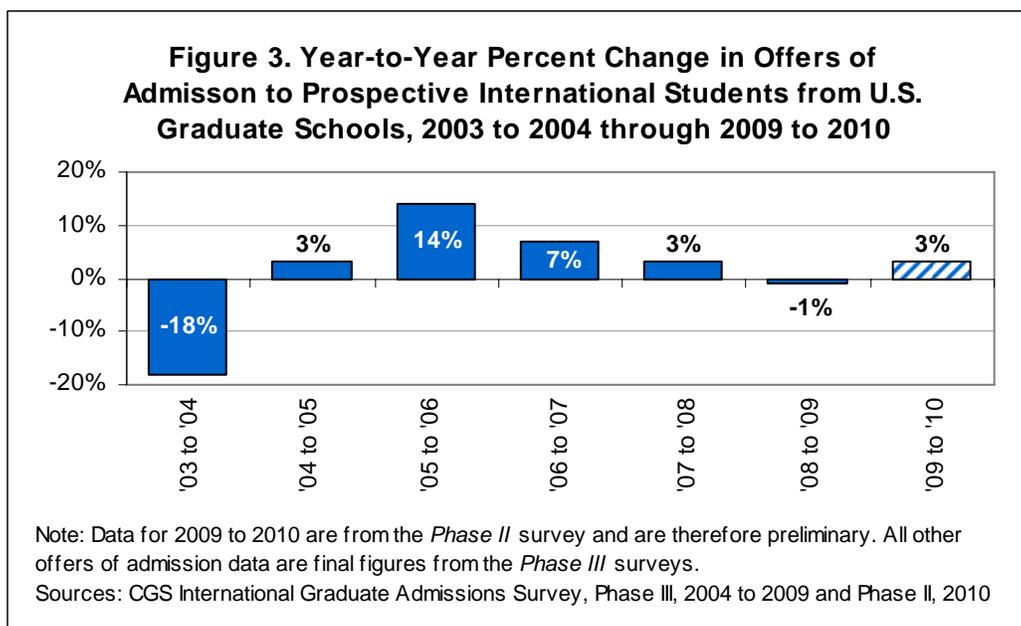
In contrast to China and India, applications from prospective graduate students from South Korea and the Middle East & Turkey were largest at the institutions outside the largest 100. Applications from prospective graduate students from South Korea rose 10% at the smallest institutions in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students, compared with a 1% decline at the 10 largest institutions. Similarly, applications from prospective graduate students from the Middle East & Turkey rose 38% at the institutions outside the largest 100 (although the increase was based on a relatively small number of applications), and rose just 1% at the 10 largest institutions.

International applications increased in all broad fields in all five size categories shown in Table 3, but there was considerable variation both within and across fields. The strongest increase in international applications by number of graduate degrees awarded to international students and broad field of study occurred in 'other' fields—a 22% gain at the 10 largest institutions—while the smallest increase occurred in life sciences—a 1% gain at the institutions outside the largest 100. The largest variation within a broad field occurred in engineering, where international applications increased 17% at the 10 largest institutions, but increased just 4% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

### III. Offers of Admission to Prospective International Graduate Students

#### *Total Number of Offers of Admission*

For prospective international students, offers of admission to U.S. graduate schools increased 3% between 2009 and 2010. This year's increase in initial offers of admission to prospective international students follows a 1% decline in final offers of admission in 2009, and gains of 3% and 7% in 2008 and 2007, respectively (see Figure 3).



Of the 240 institutions that provided data on offers of admission for both 2009 and 2010 in this year's *Phase II* survey, a slight majority reported an increase in international offers of admission for fall 2010. Among the 128 institutions (53%) reporting an increase in international offers of admission, the average increase was 14% at these institutions. At the 107 institutions (45%) reporting a decrease, the average decline in international offers of admission was 12%. Five institutions (2%) reported no change in international offers of admission.

Offers of admission to international students remain below their 2003 levels at many institutions. About 46% (38) of the 83 institutions that responded to the *Phase II* survey in both 2004 and 2010 made fewer offers of admission to prospective international students this year than they did in 2003. Collectively, the number of students from abroad being offered admission to these institutions is currently 25% below what it was in 2003. The majority (44, or 53%) of the institutions that responded to the *Phase II* survey in both 2004 and 2010 reported an increase in international offers of admission between 2003 and 2010, with an average gain of 57% at these institutions. The overall number of offers of admission to prospective international students by all 83 institutions that responded to the *Phase II* survey in both 2004 and 2010 is 24% higher this year than it was in 2003.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Offers of Admission by Country/Region of Origin*

The *Phase II* survey results reveal continued declines in offers of admission to prospective graduate students from India and South Korea and continued increases in offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China and the Middle East & Turkey (see Table 4). Initial offers of admission to

**Table 4.** Change in International Offers of Admission, 2006 to 2007 through 2009 to 2010

	Final Number of Offers of Admission, 2006 to 2007	Final Number of Offers of Admission, 2007 to 2008	Final Number of Offers of Admission, 2008 to 2009	Initial Number of Offers of Admission, 2009 to 2010
<b>International Total</b>	7%	3%	-1%	<b>3%</b>
<b>Country/Region of Origin</b>				
China	24%	15%	17%	<b>16%</b>
India	9%	-2%	-14%	<b>-4%</b>
South Korea	-3%	-2%	-14%	<b>-7%</b>
Middle East & Turkey *	4%	13%	14%	<b>10%</b>
<b>Field of Study</b>				
Arts & Humanities	3%	0%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Business	4%	2%	4%	<b>8%</b>
Education	-8%	-7%	10%	<b>0%</b>
Engineering	5%	0%	-3%	<b>2%</b>
Life Sciences	4%	-1%	3%	<b>-5%</b>
Physical & Earth Sciences	-10%	9%	-5%	<b>5%</b>
Social Sciences & Psychology	-1%	1%	-1%	<b>3%</b>
Other Fields **	--	--	11%	<b>6%</b>

\* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

\*\* Prior to 2009, data for 'Other Fields' were not collected separately.

Note: Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III, 2007 to 2009, and Phase II, 2010

<sup>19</sup> This statistic should be interpreted cautiously since it is based on a smaller subset of institutions than the 2009 to 2010 comparisons. In addition, a large percentage of the institutions that responded in 2004 are institutions that award large numbers of graduate degrees to international students. As indicated on page 12, institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students were more likely to increase the number of offers of admission to prospective international students in 2010 than institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students.

prospective graduate students from India fell 4% in 2010 following declines of 14% in 2009 and 2% in 2008. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from South Korea fell 7% in 2010 following a 14% drop in 2009 and small decreases in 2008 and 2007. Offers of admission to prospective students from China continued to increase in 2010, with a 16% gain; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. Initial offers of admission to prospective students from the Middle East & Turkey increased 10% in 2010 following a 14% gain in 2009 and a 13% increase in 2008.

#### *Offers of Admission by Field of Study*

Increases occurred in offers of admission in all but two broad fields in 2010 (see Table 4). The largest increase (8%) occurred in business following a 4% gain in 2009. Sizeable increases also occurred in 'other fields' (6%) and physical & earth sciences (5%). The increase in international offers of admission in physical & earth sciences (which includes mathematics and physical sciences) follows a 5% decline in 2009, and the increase in 'other fields' follows an 11% gain in 2009. Offers of admission increased 3% in social sciences & psychology in 2010, 2% in engineering, 1% in arts & humanities, and remained flat in education. In life sciences, offers of admission to international students fell 5% in 2010 following a 3% gain in 2009.

#### *Offers of Admission by Geographic Region*

Offers of admission by U.S. graduate schools to prospective international students increased in three of the four major regions of the United States in 2010. Of the 240 institutions that provided total offers of admission data for both 2009 and 2010 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 47 institutions are located in the Northeast, 93 institutions are located in the South, 63 in the Midwest, and 37 in the West.<sup>20</sup> International offers of admission increased 8% in the Northeast in 2010, 3% in the South, and 2% in the Midwest, but decreased 2% in the West.

#### *Offers of Admission by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification*

Offers of admission to prospective international students increased at public institutions and at private, not-for-profit institutions in 2010. Of the 240 institutions that provided total offers of admission data for both 2009 and 2010 in this year's *Phase II* survey, 172 were public institutions, 67 were private, not-for-profit institutions, and one was a private, for-profit institution. At public institutions, international offers of admission increased 2% in 2010 following a 1% decline in 2009 (see Table 5 on the following page). At private, not-for-profit institutions, international offers of admission increased 5% in 2010 following a 1% gain in 2009. Data for the one private, for-profit respondent are included in the total but are not broken out separately.

By Carnegie classification, offers of admission to prospective international students for fall 2010 increased 3% at doctoral institutions and remained flat at master's-focused institutions (see Table 5 on the following page).<sup>21</sup> At doctoral institutions and at master's-focused institutions, international applications increased more at private, not-for-profit institutions than at public institutions. At doctoral institutions, international applications increased 4% at private, not-for-profit institutions, slightly more than the 3% increase at public institutions. At master's-focused institutions, international applications rose 8% at private, not-for-profit institutions, but fell 3% at public institutions.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> See footnote 15 for a listing of the states included in each region.

<sup>21</sup> See page 6 and footnote 16 for more information on Carnegie classifications.

<sup>22</sup> The data for master's-focused institutions should be interpreted cautiously given the smaller number of these institutions—particularly private, not-for-profit master's institutions—responding to the survey.

**Table 5.** Change in International Offers of Admission by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification, 2008 to 2009 and 2009 to 2010

	2008 to 2009		2009 to 2010	
	No. of Respondents	Final Change in Offers of Admission	No. of Respondents	Initial Change in Offers of Admission
<b>Total (All Institutions) *</b>	250	-1%	<b>240</b>	<b>3%</b>
Public	173	-1%	<b>172</b>	<b>2%</b>
Private, not-for-profit	75	1%	<b>67</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Doctoral Institutions **</b>	165	0%	<b>165</b>	<b>3%</b>
Public	116	-1%	<b>116</b>	<b>3%</b>
Private, not-for-profit	48	1%	<b>48</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Master's-Focused Institutions</b>	69	-6%	<b>57</b>	<b>0%</b>
Public	49	-6%	<b>46</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Private, not-for-profit	20	-5%	<b>11</b>	<b>8%</b>

\* Includes two private, for-profit institutions for 2008 to 2009 and one private, for-profit institution for 2009 to 2010 not broken out separately by institutional control.

\*\* For both 2008 to 2009 and 2009 to 2010, includes one private, for-profit institution not broken out separately by institutional control.

Notes: All results are based on the institutions providing total offers of admission data for both years being compared (2008 and 2009 and/or 2009 and 2010). Carnegie classifications are based on the 2005 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. See text for description of Carnegie groupings. Institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions are included in the total for all institutions but are not broken out separately.

Sources: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2009 and 2010

### *Offers of Admission by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students*

Table 6 on the following page displays the changes in international offers of admission from 2009 to 2010 for the responding colleges and universities awarding the 10 largest, 25 largest, 50 largest, and 100 largest numbers of master's and doctoral degrees to international students. In addition, data are presented for all responding institutions outside the largest 100.<sup>23</sup>

Overall, institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students were more likely to increase the number of offers of admission to prospective international students in 2010 than institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International offers of admission increased 5% at the responding institutions that are among the 100 largest institutions in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students but fell 1% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

For prospective graduate students from China, offers of admission increased across all five size categories shown in Table 6. The largest increase for China was at the 10 largest institutions, with a 30%

<sup>23</sup> See footnote 4 for more information.

**Table 6.** Change in International Offers of Admission by Number of Graduate Degrees Awarded to International Students, 2009 to 2010

	<b>10 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>25 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>50 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>100 Largest Institutions</b>	<b>All Other Institutions</b>
<b>International Total</b>	3%	5%	7%	5%	-1%
<b>Country/Region of Origin</b>					
China	30%	23%	23%	18%	10%
India	-10%	0%	4%	0%	-14%
South Korea	-12%	-11%	-9%	-8%	-1%
Middle East & Turkey *	-14%	-2%	3%	11%	8%
<b>Field of Study</b>					
Arts & Humanities	-3%	1%	-1%	2%	-2%
Business	-4%	15%	15%	9%	8%
Education	0%	2%	7%	0%	2%
Engineering	1%	3%	4%	3%	-6%
Life Sciences	2%	-9%	-3%	-5%	-5%
Physical & Earth Sciences	21%	4%	14%	8%	-2%
Social Sciences & Psychology	-5%	2%	2%	2%	6%
Other Fields	21%	6%	9%	8%	0%

\* Middle East & Turkey includes: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Notes: The rankings are based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Education. See footnote 4 for more information. Not all responding institutions provided data by country of origin and/or field of study.

Source: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2010

jump in offers of admission for 2010. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China also increased 23% at the 25 largest and 50 largest institutions, compared with a gain of 10% at the institutions outside the largest 100. The growth in offers of admission among institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students is due in large part to the sizeable increases in the numbers of offers of admission to prospective graduate students from China by these institutions.

Offers of admission to prospective students from South Korea fell across all five size categories shown in Table 6, ranging from a 12% decline at the 10 largest institutions to a 1% decline at the institutions outside the largest 100. For prospective students from India, the 50 largest institutions in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students made slightly more offers of admission in 2010 than in 2009, but in all other size categories shown in Table 6, offers of admission remained flat or fell. At the 10 largest institutions, offers of admission to applicants from India fell 10% in 2010 and at the institutions outside the largest 100, offers dropped 14%. For prospective students from the Middle East & Turkey, offers of admission decreased 14% at the 10 largest institutions, but increased 11% at the 100 largest institutions and 8% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

No clear pattern emerged by broad field of study, with some strong gains in offers of admission as well as several declines across the five size categories shown in Table 6. The 10 largest institutions increased their offers of admission to prospective international students by 21% in 'other' fields and in physical & earth sciences, but decreased the number of offers of admission to international students in social

sciences & psychology (-5%), business (-4%), and arts & humanities (-3%). Among the 100 largest institutions, international offers of admission increased in all broad fields except life sciences, in which offers of admission fell 5%. Institutions outside the largest 100 were most likely to reduce offers of admission to international students, with declines in four broad fields. The largest declines among the institutions outside the largest 100 were in engineering (-6%) and life sciences (-5%).

#### **IV. U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident Applications and Offers of Admission**

While the primary focus of the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* is on the participation of international students in U.S. graduate education, each phase of the survey also asks CGS member colleges and universities to respond to one or more questions regarding critical issues in graduate education. In this year's *Phase II* survey, institutions were asked to respond to two questions about prospective U.S. citizen and permanent resident graduate students. In the first question, institutions were asked to provide the number of applications received from U.S. citizens and permanent residents for graduate certificate, education specialist, master's degree, and doctoral programs for the fall term in 2009 and the fall term in 2010. In the second question, institutions were asked to provide the number of offers of admission granted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for graduate certificate, education specialist, master's degree, and doctoral programs for the fall term in 2009 and the fall term in 2010, as of June 5<sup>th</sup> or the same data each year.

##### *Applications from U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents*

A total of 238 institutions provided data on applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2009 and fall 2010. Of those institutions, 173 (73%) were public institutions and 65 (27%) were private, not-for-profit institutions. By basic Carnegie classification, 165 of the respondents were doctoral institutions, 56 were master's-focused institutions, and 17 were institutions classified as baccalaureate or specialized.<sup>24</sup> Among the 238 responding institutions, 25% are located in the Midwest, 20% are in the Northeast, 16% are in the West, and 39% are in the South.<sup>25</sup> Sixty-seven of the 100 largest institutions in the United States in terms of the total number of master's and doctoral degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents provided data on applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2009 and fall 2010, along with 171 institutions outside the largest 100.<sup>26</sup> The 238 responding institutions conferred about 41% of all graduate degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the United States in academic year 2007-08. Given this diverse set of survey respondents, it is likely that the findings presented below accurately reflect the current trends in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents to graduate schools across the United States.

Overall, applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents increased 9% between fall 2009 and fall 2010, the same as the increase in applications from international students. Of the 238 institutions that provided data for both 2009 and 2010, 174 (73%) reported an increase in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2010, with an average increase of 12% at these institutions. At the 64 institutions (32%) reporting a decrease, the average decline in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents was 10%.

The increase in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents varied minimally by number of graduate degrees awarded. At the 67 responding institutions that are among the 100 largest in terms of the total number of graduate degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, applications

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<sup>24</sup> See page 6 and footnote 16 for more information on Carnegie classifications.

<sup>25</sup> See footnote 15 for a listing of the states included in each region.

<sup>26</sup> See footnote 4 for more information.

from U.S. citizens and permanent residents increased 9%, while at the 171 responding institutions outside the largest 100, applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents increased 8%.

Applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2010 increased 9% at public institutions, compared with an 8% increase at private, not-for-profit institutions (see table 7). There was slightly more variation by Carnegie classification. Doctoral institutions reported a 9% increase in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents, while master's-focused institutions reported a 6% gain.<sup>27</sup>

**Table 7.** Change in U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident Applications by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification, 2009 to 2010

	2009 to 2010	
	No. of Respondents	Change in Applications
<b>Total (All Institutions)</b>	238	9%
<b><i>Institutional Control</i></b>		
Public	173	9%
Private, not-for-profit	65	8%
<b><i>Carnegie Classification</i></b>		
Doctoral	165	9%
Master's-Focused Institutions	56	6%

Notes: All results are based on the institutions providing applications data for both years being compared (2009 and 2010). Carnegie classifications are based on the 2005 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. See page 6 and footnote 16 for more information on Carnegie classifications. Institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions are included in the total for all institutions but are not broken out separately.

Source: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2010

The increases in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents varied only slightly by geographic region. Increases were highest at institutions located in the Midwest (up 10%), followed by the Northeast and West (both 9%), and the South (8%).

#### *Offers of Admission to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents*

A total of 236 institutions provided data on offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2009 and fall 2010. Of those institutions, 171 (72%) were public institutions and 65 (28%) were private, not-for-profit institutions. By basic Carnegie classification, 163 of the respondents were doctoral institutions, 56 were master's-focused institutions, and 17 were institutions classified as baccalaureate or specialized.<sup>28</sup> Among the 236 responding institutions, 25% are located in the Midwest, 20% are in the

<sup>27</sup> Since the data on U.S. citizen and permanent resident applications were collected as part of the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey*, it is possible that the increase at master's-focused institutions is not representative of the entire universe of master's-focused institutions in the United States, since small master's-focused institutions are less likely to have international graduate students and therefore may have been less likely to respond to the survey.

<sup>28</sup> See page 6 and footnote 16 for more information on Carnegie classifications.

Northeast, 16% are in the West, and 39% are in the South.<sup>29</sup> Sixty-six of the 100 largest institutions in the United States in terms of the total number of master's and doctoral degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents provided data on offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2009 and fall 2010, along with 170 institutions outside the largest 100.<sup>30</sup> The 236 responding institutions conferred about 40% of all graduate degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the United States in academic year 2007-08. Given this diverse set of survey respondents, it is likely that the findings presented below accurately reflect the current trends in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents by graduate schools across the United States.

Overall, initial offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents fell 1% between fall 2009 and fall 2010 (see Table 8). This compares with a 3% increase in offers of admission to international students. Of the 236 institutions that provided data for both 2009 and 2010, 126 (53%) reported an increase in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2010, with an average increase of 8% at these institutions. At the 107 institutions (45%) reporting a decrease, the average decline in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents was 13%. Three institutions (2%) reported no change in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

The changes in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents varied slightly by number of graduate degrees awarded. At the 66 responding institutions that are among the 100 largest in terms of

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**Table 8.** Change in Initial Offers of Admission to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents by Institutional Control and Carnegie Classification, 2009 to 2010

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	2009 to 2010	
	No. of Respondents	Change in Initial Offers of Admission
<b>Total (All Institutions)</b>	236	-1%
<b><i>Institutional Control</i></b>		
Public	171	-1%
Private, not-for-profit	65	-2%
<b><i>Carnegie Classification</i></b>		
Doctoral	163	0%
Master's-Focused Institutions	56	-6%

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Notes: All results are based on the institutions providing offers of admission data for both years being compared (2009 and 2010). Carnegie classifications are based on the 2005 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. See page 6 and footnote 16 for more information on Carnegie classifications. Institutions classified as specialized or baccalaureate institutions are included in the total for all institutions but are not broken out separately.

Source: CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II, 2010

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<sup>29</sup> See footnote 15 for a listing of the states included in each region.

<sup>30</sup> See footnote 4 for more information.

the total number of graduate degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents increased 1%, while at the 170 responding institutions outside the largest 100, offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents fell 3%.

Offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents for fall 2010 fell 1% at public institutions and fell 2% at private, not-for-profit institutions (see Table 8). There was slightly more variation by Carnegie classification. Doctoral institutions reported no change in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, while master's-focused institutions reported a 6% decrease.<sup>31</sup>

The changes in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents varied only slightly by geographic region. Offers of admission increased 1% in the Northeast, fell 1% in the Midwest and in the South, and fell 2% in the West.

## V. Summary and Conclusions

### *Summary*

The results of the *2010 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission* show that applications to U.S. graduate schools from prospective international students increased 9% between 2009 and 2010. The rate of increase for fall 2010 outpaced that of the last two years, and for the first time in the last seven years, total applications from international students are now higher than they were in 2003. This year's increase was driven in part by double-digit increases in applications from China and the Middle East & Turkey (both up 20%). However, there was little to no growth in the numbers of applications from prospective graduate students from India and South Korea, with changes of 1% and 0%, respectively.

International applications increased in all broad fields of study in 2010, led by large increases in 'other' fields (up 13%) and business and social sciences & psychology (both up 11%). In engineering and physical & earth sciences (including mathematics and computer science), two of the largest fields for international students at U.S. graduate schools, applications increased by 8% and 10%, respectively. The smallest increase in international applications occurred in life sciences (2%).

Applications from prospective international graduate students increased 12% at private, not-for-profit institutions in 2010 and 7% at public institutions. By Carnegie classification, doctoral institutions experienced a 9% increase, while international graduate applications rose 2% at master's-focused institutions.

Overall, increases in international graduate applications in 2010 were strongest at institutions awarding large numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International graduate applications increased 13% at the responding institutions that are among the 10 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students, 9% at the 100 largest, and 8% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

Initial offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 3% in 2010 following a 1% decline in final offers of admission in 2009. This year's increase was due in part to double-digit gains in offers of admission to prospective students from China and the Middle East & Turkey, with increases of

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<sup>31</sup> Since the data on U.S. citizen and permanent resident offers of admission were collected as part of the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey*, it is possible that the decrease at master's-focused institutions is not representative of the entire universe of master's-focused institutions in the United States, since small master's-focused institutions are less likely to have international graduate students and therefore may have been less likely to respond to the survey.

16% and 10%, respectively. Offers of admission to prospective graduate students from India fell 4% in 2010, and offers of admission to students from South Korea fell 7%. The decreases for India and South Korea follow 14% declines for both countries in 2009.

Increases occurred in offers of admission in all but one broad field in 2010. The largest increases occurred in business (8%), 'other' fields (6%), and physical & earth sciences (5%). Offers of admission to prospective international graduate students fell 5% in life sciences in 2010.

Offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 5% at private, not-for-profit institutions and 2% at public institutions in 2010. By Carnegie classification, doctoral institutions experienced a 3% increase, while international offers of admission remained flat at master's-focused institutions.

Overall, institutions awarding larger numbers of graduate degrees to international students were more likely to increase the number of offers of admission to prospective international graduate students in 2010 than institutions awarding smaller numbers of graduate degrees to international students. International offers of admission increased 5% at the responding institutions that are among the 100 largest in terms of graduate degrees awarded to international students, but fell 1% at the institutions outside the largest 100.

Applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents increased 9% between fall 2009 and fall 2010, with a slightly larger increase at public institutions than at private, not-for-profit institutions (9% vs. 8%). Doctoral institutions reported a 9% increase in applications from U.S. citizens and permanent residents, while master's-focused institutions reported a 6% gain.

Initial offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents fell 1% between fall 2009 and fall 2010, with a slightly larger decrease at private, not-for-profit institutions than at public institutions (-2% vs. -1%). Doctoral institutions reported no change in offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, while master's-focused institutions reported a 6% decline.

### *Conclusions*

Several data points from the *Phase II* survey are of particular note. First, this year's 9% increase in international applications and 3% gain in international offers of admission signify that students from abroad continue to value U.S. graduate education. Last year's 1% decline in international offers of admission and lack of growth in international first-time graduate enrollment raised concerns that international students were looking elsewhere for graduate education.<sup>32</sup> This year's gains indicate that for the time being that is not the case. Yet, with continued competition for international students from other countries and an increased capacity for graduate education in some countries, U.S. graduate schools cannot assume that we will always remain the destination of choice for students from abroad.

Second, recent phases of the *CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey* have tracked the declines for prospective graduate students from India and South Korea. Last year, applications from India fell 12%, applications from South Korea decreased 9%, and offers of admission to prospective graduate students from both countries fell 14%.<sup>33</sup> This year's *Phase II* survey shows that the declines in applications from

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<sup>32</sup> Bell, N. 2009. *Findings from the 2009 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

<sup>33</sup> Bell, N. 2009. *Findings from the 2009 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase II: Final Applications and Initial Offers of Admission*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools; Bell, N. 2009. *Findings from the 2009 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

India and South Korea ceased for fall 2010, but offers of admission to students from these two countries continued to fall, with declines of 4% for India and 7% for South Korea for fall 2010. While the stabilization of applications volume from these two sending countries is a positive sign, it is clear from the data that applications and offers of admission for India and South Korea do not always align. For India, this is the third consecutive year of declines in offers of admission, yet 2009 was the only year in which applications decreased. For South Korea, offers of admission declined in each of the past four years, yet once again, 2009 was the only year in which applications decreased.

Third, the survey data show that large institutions in terms of the number of graduate degrees awarded to international students continue to drive much of the growth in international applications and all of the growth in international offers of admission. The 100 largest institutions confer about 60% of all graduate degrees awarded to international students in the United States.<sup>34</sup> At these same institutions, international applications increased 9% on average for fall 2010 and international offers of admission increased 5%. In comparison, international applications increased 8% on average at the institutions outside the largest 100, and international offers of admission fell 1% at these institutions.

Fourth, there is a striking difference in the data on offers of admission to international students compared with U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Initial offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 3% in 2010, but initial offers of admission to U.S. citizens and permanent residents fell 1%. Yet, applications to graduate school increased 9% for both populations in 2010. It is unclear what is behind these differences in offers of admission, but it is important to note that the figures for U.S. citizens and permanent residents are not as final as those for international students. Some colleges and universities continue to admit students throughout the summer, particularly for master's-level programs. Given the time it takes to secure a visa, international students are less likely to apply at this late stage than are domestic students, so it is possible that final figures on offers of admission will show less disparity between international students and U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

At this point, it appears that international first-time graduate enrollment will increase in fall 2010, but the increase will likely be small. Last year, initial offers of admission to prospective international students fell 3%, and final offers of admission data revealed a 1% decline. This slight decline in offers of admission resulted in no change in international first-time graduate enrollment between fall 2008 and fall 2009.<sup>35</sup> Since the changes in offers of admission generally track quite closely with the changes in first-time graduate enrollment, it is likely that international first-time graduate enrollment will increase about 3% in fall 2010, give or take one or two percentage points. The *Phase III CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey*, to be released in November, will provide data on the ultimate graduate school decisions of international students for fall 2010.

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<sup>34</sup> See footnote 4 for more information.

<sup>35</sup> Bell, N. 2009. *Findings from the 2009 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment*. Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools.

## **About the Council of Graduate Schools**

*The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Among U.S. institutions, CGS members award 95% of the doctoral degrees and 78% of the master's degrees.<sup>36</sup> The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.*

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<sup>36</sup> Based on data from the 2008 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees.

**Appendix A**  
**CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey Taxonomy**

**ARTS & HUMANITIES**

Arts – History, Theory & Criticism  
Arts – Performance & Studio  
English Language & Literature  
Foreign Languages & Literatures  
History  
Philosophy  
Arts & Humanities, Other

**BUSINESS**

Accounting  
Banking and Finance  
Business Administration & Management  
Business, Other

**EDUCATION**

Education Administration  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Early Childhood Education  
Elementary Education  
Educational Assessment, Evaluation and  
Research  
Higher Education  
Secondary Education  
Special Education  
Student Counseling & Personnel Services  
Education, Other

**ENGINEERING**

Chemical Engineering  
Civil Engineering  
Computer, Electrical & Electronics  
Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
Materials Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Engineering, Other

**LIFE SCIENCES**

Agriculture, Natural Resources &  
Conservation  
Biological & Biomedical Sciences  
Health & Medical Sciences

**PHYSICAL & EARTH SCIENCES**

Chemistry  
Computer & Information Sciences  
Earth, Atmospheric & Marine Sciences  
Mathematical Sciences  
Physics & Astronomy  
Physical Sciences, Other

**SOCIAL SCIENCES & PSYCHOLOGY**

Anthropology  
Archaeology  
Economics  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Social Sciences, Other

**OTHER FIELDS**

Architecture & Environmental Design  
Communications & Journalism  
Family & Consumer Sciences  
Library & Archival Studies  
Public Administration  
Religion & Theology  
Social Work  
Other Fields